GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3496
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
THEFT IN PNB
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 16 lockers of PNB, Safdarjung Enclave Branch were tempered scientifically and all valuables were stolen;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modus operandi adopted for the purpose;

(c) the number of persons involved in the theft and action taken against them;

(d) whether the bank authorities agree to compensate its customers, whose valuables have been stolen;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(g) the measures proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a), (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has informed that 16 lockers have been tampered at their Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi Branch. Out of 16 lockers, holders of 3 have reported that their lockers were already empty, holder of one locker is reported dead and remaining 12 locker holders have reported missing valuables amounting to Rs.37.54 lacs. Lockers were tampered by the miscreants by drilling on the locker plates and re-fixed by using metallic rivets/ screws. FIRs have been lodged by some of the locker holders on 23.7.2004, 29.7.2004 and by the Bank on 29.7.2004 with the Police Station Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.

(d), (e) & (f) : Bank is examining the claims received and will take a view in the matter after completion of police investigation.

(g):- PNB has advised all its Branch Managers to be more vigilant and ensure meticulous compliance of guidelines on operations and safety of lockers. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular elaboratherelationship between the bank and the locker holder as also liability of the bank in case of lapses in taking adequate measures to safeguard deposit lockers. Further security measures to be taken by public sector banks are being reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI.